



Bar Course Scholarships

Scholarships Application Q&A Session

8 October 2024

THE HONOURABLE SOCIETY OF
THE INNER TEMPLE

Introduction

- If you need closed captioning for this meeting, you can turn this on by clicking the 'closed caption' button at the bottom of your screen and selecting 'show subtitles'.
- During this meeting, we will:
 - Give you information on:
 - Important deadlines and dates
 - Scholarships Criteria
 - Steps after application form submission
 - Answer any questions you have about the application process

Important Dates and Deadlines

Task	Deadline/Date	Note
Application form submission deadline	1pm on Friday 1 November 2024	You must submit your application form before this date/time. Late applications will not be accepted.
Reference deadline	5pm on Friday 8 November 2024	Your referees must submit their references before this deadline.
Book your scholarship interview*	Mid-November 2024	You will be asked to login to the application portal and book your interview.
Complete the financial assessment form*	January 2025	You will be asked to complete a financial assessment form on the application portal.
Attend your interview	February 2025	Attend your interview either at the Inn or online.
Receive the results	By the end of March 2025	Your results will be sent to you via email.

*These will be allocated as tasks on the application portal and full instructions will be provided

Criteria for Bar Course Scholarships



Academic Achievement

Assessed on application form content.

- Good degree result/predicted grade
- Demonstrates strong academic achievement at university (taking into account any mitigating circumstances).
- Demonstrates strong academic achievement at each academic stage or improvement in academic achievement at different stages.
- Evidence of scholarships or prizes awarded.



Advocacy Potential

Assessed on application form content & interview answers.

- Evidence of advocacy/public speaking experience in legal or non-legal contexts e.g. moots, debates, presenting to an audience, teaching, drama.
- Uses precise and well-reasoned arguments.
- Communicates with clarity and fluency.
- Demonstrates persuasiveness and conviction.
- Tailors style to the audience



Legal Analysis & Reasoning

Assessed on case exercise during your interview.

- Effectively analyses the case.
- Identifies the important issues.
- Identifies the key points of the parties' argument(s).
- Identifies the appeal court's decision and reasons.



Interpersonal Skills

Assessed on application form content & interview answers.

- Builds productive working relationships.
- Treats people with courtesy and respect, regardless of their background or circumstances.
- Responds appropriately to people from diverse backgrounds
- Responds appropriately to people with different abilities



Motivation

Assessed on application form content & interview answers.

- Demonstrates commitment to a career at the Bar.
- Has a good understanding of the profession.
- Demonstrates interest in one/more practice areas and explains why.
- Demonstrates what steps they have undertaken to learn more about a career at the Bar. E.g. attending webinars, listening to podcasts, undertaking work experience/mini pupillages, shadowing, marshalling etc.

Eligibility

- To be eligible you must have the intention to practice at the Bar of England and Wales once qualified
- You must be eligible to start the Bar Course in academic year following application.
- If you are studying the Bar Course across one year, you must not have started any stage of your Bar Course before the applications close.
- If you are studying the Bar Course across two years you must not have started your second year before the applications close.
- Students may only apply for a scholarship from one of the four Inns of Court. Names of applicants are shared between Inns to ensure that students have not applied to more than one Inn
- If your mode of study changes between submitting your applications, and the interview, you must inform us, as this could affect your eligibility.

**Please note that if you are planning to start your Bar Course in the January after putting in your application, you will not receive the result of your application until the Spring of that year. It is advised that you apply a full academic year before starting your Bar Course to be sure of the funds available to you when commencing you study.*

Higher Education Section

- The Inn has introduced a system of blind marking, and so we no longer ask you for the name of school or university in the Education section of the form.
- Please ensure that you do not mention the name of your university or school in any of your answers on the application form.
- If you haven't yet finished your degree, on the results section, please select 'results pending'
- You should provide the breakdown of module results, listing the module title and grade.

Work Experience Section

- Legal Work Experience
 - Any paid legal work
 - For example, paralegal work, clerking etc.
- Other Legal Experience
 - Any unpaid legal experiences
 - For example, mini-pupillages, mentoring, marshalling, or other legal schemes.
- Non-Legal experience
 - Any non-legal work experiences.
 - There are many skills transferrable to the Bar, which can be gained through non-legal work experiences. We would recommend thinking about those skills in answer to this section of the form.
- You may enter up to 5 entries under each of the above titles

References

- On the application form, you must enter the details of 2 referees (we do not accept more than 2 references).
- You should speak to your referee in advance of listing them on the application form to ensure they are happy to provide you a reference.
- Referees should have known your for at least 6 months and must not be a family member.
- When you save the referee information on your application form, an automatic email is sent to the referee, asking them to complete our online reference form.
- Referees are asked to comment on each of the scholarships criteria.
- The reference deadline is Friday 8 November 2024. You do not need to wait for your referee to submit their reference before you submit your application form.
- Once your referee has submitted their reference to us, you will receive an automatic email to let you know.

Supporting Information

- It is important that you answer the questions in the Supporting Information section, thoroughly.
- You have a character limit of 1,000 characters, including spaces, for each of the questions in this section.
- If you write your answers in an external document and copy and paste them into this section, please ensure you proofread and make sure your answer is not cut off.
- We would recommend that you review the scholarships criteria when completing this section of the form.
- If you are undecided on which area of law you wish to practice, that is okay, but you should try to identify a few areas of law you are interested in and why.

Contextual Recruitment



- In line with the Inn's commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, you are invited to submit contextual recruitment information as part of the application form.
- We use **Rare Contextual Recruitment System** (CRS) which allows us to understand each applicant's achievements in the context in which they have been gained. We seek to award scholarships to the best people, from every background, regardless of their personal circumstances, and the CRS will help us to do that.
- Under no circumstances are candidates put at any disadvantage for supplying this information.
- In addition to Rare CRS, we also ask you if there are any other long-term contextual factors, not covered by Rare.
- No information in this section of the form is provided to those assessing your application form, or prior to interview.
- After the interviews, a committee of Panel Chairs will review the data in conjunction with final assessment scores.
- It is not compulsory to complete this section of the form.

Interview Dates (Interview Requirements Section)

- Interviews will be held on **Saturday 15 February 2025** (in-person at Inner Temple) and **Saturday 22 February 2025** (online).
- Additionally, there will be a limited number of in-person interview slots on the evening of Wednesday 19 February 2025. Priority for these slots will be given to those who cannot attend an interview on a Saturday due to religious reasons.
- You are asked to indicate in the 'Interview Requirements' section of your application form, which format of interview you would like to attend.
- In mid-November, you will be invited to book your interview slot – either in-person or online, depending on the preference you select on your application form.



Reasonable Adjustments (Interview Requirements Section)

- Information on your reasonable adjustment will only be shared with those who are required to know in order to facilitate your request. It will only be shared with the interview panel, with your consent, and only where pertinent to the interview directly.
- Examples include;
 - Additional reading time for pre-interview tasks
 - Provision of materials in different format e.g. online, coloured paper, large print
 - Scheduling a longer interview to accommodate additional thinking time
 - Use of a laptop for note taking
 - Use of specific software
 - Closed captions for online interview
 - Ensuring accessible rooms
- Evidence of reasonable adjustments is not required at the application stage. However, it is likely that you will be asked to provide evidence before your interview.
- There is a legal case exercise as a part of the interview. You are given a copy of a legal judgment directly prior to your interview and you will be given 30 minutes to read it. The interview panel will then ask you questions about the judgment you read. **If you receive(d) extra time in your university exams, we can allocate you extra time to read the legal case prior to your interview. It is important that you request this reasonable adjustment in the 'Interview Requirements' section of the application form.**

Next Steps

- **Book interview**
 - In mid-November, you will be invited to book your interview slot – on either the in-person or online interview days.
 - Once your interview has been booked, it will not be possible to change your interview slot, unless there are extenuating circumstances.
- **Complete Financial Assessment Form**
 - In January, you will be asked to complete a financial assessment form, via the application portal.
 - The financial means forms is not considered by the interview panel and is only considered after the scholarship winners have been selected.
 - The Inn's goal is to financially level the playing field amongst our scholars.
 - The financial means assessment uses the collected financial data to calculate how much funding will be available to each scholar during their bar course year.
 - The value of Major Scholarships and Exhibition Scholarships are determined based on this calculation. The minimum value of a scholarship is £3,000 and the maximum value of a scholarship is £20,000.
- **Attend Pre-Interview Briefing**
 - In January, we will be holding pre-interview briefing meetings, online via Zoom, to give you more information about what to expect on the day of your interview.
 - Dates for these sessions will be sent to you nearer the time.

Scholarship Types

- **Named Scholarships**
 - There are 7 of these, awarded to the those who receive the highest marks.
 - These scholarships are not means-tested and consist of one Peter Taylor Scholarship of £22,000, one Stephen Chapman Scholarship of £21,000 and five Princess Royal Scholarships of £20,000 each.
- **Major Scholarships**
 - There are 20 available each year, awarded to the next 20 best scoring candidates.
 - These awards are means tested
- **Exhibition Scholarships**
 - There are approximately 93 of these awarded each year to those who performance very well against the scholarships criteria.
 - These awards are means tested
- **Benefactors Awards**
 - There are 18 Benefactors awards, which are offered in conjunction with Exhibition Scholarships to the top 18 scholars in the Exhibitions tier
- **Duke of Edinburgh Awards**
 - There are 50 Duke of Edinburgh Awards, valued at £175 each to cover membership admissions fees and Call to the Bar fees. These are award in conjunction with the above scholarship, based on financial assessment.



Q&A